

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

REP. JIM GERLACH (PA-06)

Friday, May 6, 2005

www.gerlach.house.gov

House passes Vocational and Technical Education Act

Visit to Pottstown High School



Congressman Gerlach recently spent part of an afternoon with the students and faculty at Pottstown High School. He discussed a wide-range of issues and was invited to eat lunch with the students and teachers.



WASHINGTON -- The U.S. House of Representatives recently gave bipartisan approval to legislation that will help states and local communities improve vocational and technical education and enhance opportunities for students. Rep. Jim Gerlach was one of 416 House Members to vote on Wednesday in favor of H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act.

“Vocational and technical education is a vital and critical part of our nation’s education system,” Rep. Gerlach said. “This legislation reauthorizes the popular Perkins Act while making a few adjustments to enhance the overall educational experience for the students, improve accountability and increase results.”

see EDUCATION

Supplemental Appropriations bill includes millions for troop security and the War on Terror

WASHINGTON -- Congress acted decisively this week in passing by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority the \$82 billion emergency supplemental appropriations bill for the war in Iraq. The legislation includes millions of dollars for our troops to receive much-needed equipment enhancements.

The legislation (H.R. 1268) includes provisions tightening immigration laws and practices to better protect the country from acts of terrorism.

These provisions include setting a national standard for driver’s licenses, tightening restrictions on individuals applying for asylum in the United

see SUPPLEMENTAL



Congressman Jim Gerlach met recently with several Montgomery County doctors during their visit to Washington, D.C.

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EDUCATION

One of the unique attributes of vocational and technical education programs is their ability to show students a path that could end in a certificate, credential, employment, military, or postsecondary education.”

The Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act would strengthen and improve the framework of current vocational and technical education programs without expanding the federal role in education. The bill would increase the focus on student academic achievement and streamline federal funding to help states and local communities make the

most of federal resources. The bill also continues to move away from the so-called School to Work model of the past, explicitly rejecting federal standards and instead increasing local control and local accountability.

Are you reading Capitol Hill Update for the first time on the Web site? Be sure to sign up to start receiving the latest news and photos from Congressman Gerlach by email every week!

Congressman Jim Gerlach recently presented the fine volunteer members of the Kutztown Fire Co. with a federal Department of Homeland Security grant the department intends on using to upgrade outdated equipment.



Located in Berks County, the Kutztown Fire Co. is just one of many 6th Congressional District fire departments that have received grants through the federal Department of Homeland Security. For more information on applying for the grants, contact the Congressman's office.

Supplemental legislation sails through House

SUPPLEMENTAL

States and providing \$635 million for enhanced border patrol and security efforts, money that will pay for an additional 500 Border Patrol agents. Additionally, the legislation would allow for the deportation of any alien who was known to have contributed money to a terrorist organization.

The supplemental appropriations bill provides \$308 million to purchase heavily-armored Humvees, some \$60 million for equipment needed to electronically distort roadside bombs in Iraq, and millions for additional body armor for the troops. The legislation also included \$907 million for tsunami relief and \$240 million for international food assistance programs.

The bipartisan conference report is expected to earn Senate approval next week.

CAPITOL UPDATE/TV SCHEDULE

Be sure to catch Congressman Jim Gerlach's cable television show, Capitol Update. This month's program features footage from the Congressman's recent farmland preservation events at farms in Chester and Berks Counties.

Lower Merion Channel 7: M/W/F -- 12:30 AM, 8:30 AM, 8:30 PM and 12:30 PM on T/TH/SAT/SUN.

PCTV Channel 54: SATs at 8:30 PM

BCTV (Berks County): Check local listings